

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 1925

The annual meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M., January 6, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Harry B. Weiss in the chair, with seventeen members and six visitors present.

The Nominating Committee reported the following nominations for officers in 1925:

President—Frank E. Lutz.

Vice-President—Henry Bird.

Secretary—Charles W. Leng.

Treasurer—Wm. T. Davis.

Librarian—Frank E. Watson.

Curator—A. J. Mutchler.

Executive Committee—H. J. Barber, Lewis B. Woodruff, Harry B. Weiss, A. H. Sturtevant, Gaylord C. Hall.

Publication Committee—Harry B. Weiss, F. E. Lutz, J. D. Sherman, Jr., C. E. Olsen.

Auditing Committee—E. L. Bell, Wm. L. Lawler, Jr., Dr. E. R. P. Janvrin,

Field Committee—A. S. Nicolay, E. Shoemaker.

There being no other nominations the secretary, on motion duly seconded and carried, cast an affirmative ballot electing the nominees.

Dr. Lutz, with a few appropriate remarks, assumed the chair.

A letter of thanks from Mrs. Gustav Beyer was read by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Nicolay spoke on his summer collecting, with particular reference to a trip to Skyland, Va., in the Blue Ridge Mts. There is at Skyland a settlement of about forty log cabins of various sizes reached by train to Luray and automobile and buck-board up the mountain. In one of the cabins Mr. Nicolay, accompanied by Mr. Quirsfeld and Mr. Mason, of Philadelphia, abode for several days, collecting on the sides and summit of Stony Man Mt. Among the interesting results were *Centrodera picta* and *Encyclops coeruleus*, thirty-eight species of Elateridæ, a number of Carabini, including *Nomaretus imperfectus* and a remarkable form of *Cychrus*, and some interesting Rhyndophora, among which *Lepidophorus setiger* was conspicuous by its abundance. Mr. Nicolay's remarks were illustrated by photographs and by specimens of some of the interesting beetles. He spoke also of visits to Fairfax Co., Va., to Swartwood Lake, to the coast near Manasquan, and near Cape Henry, Va., the latter devoted to an unsuccessful search for *Trachykele* in Cypress killed by the sand dunes creeping into the borders of the swamp.

The president announced the appointment of Messrs. Weiss, Davis and Mutchler as a committee to arrange a program for each meeting.

Mr. Beamer, curator of the collection of the University of Kansas, spoke briefly of the pleasure of meeting eastern entomologists and seeing the great eastern museums. His visit was in a large measure due to his interest in Cicadas and his desire to meet Mr. Davis.

Mr. E. G. Smyth, also present as a visitor, spoke of his work in Mexico and Guatemala on the Bean Beetle, *Epilachna corrupta*, which has become a serious pest in Alabama and has spread already as far as Columbus, Ohio. Tachinid parasites were collected in the hope that they would check its advance.

Mr. Watson exhibited for Mrs. Heineman a tin can containing a living *Vanessa antiopa* as found by her.

Mr. Klots said he had found similar hibernations near Leonia, N. J., of two species of *Polygonia* as well as *Vanessa*.

Mr. Davis, commenting upon such hibernation, said he thought *Vanessa* responded first to increasing warmth and would be found flying before the other species.

MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 1925

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on January 20, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History, President Frank E. Lutz in the chair, with twelve members and four visitors present.

Mr. Mutchler reported for the Program Committee that Dr. L. O. Howard and Mr. Weiss would be the speakers at the next meeting.

The following new members were elected:

Mr. Edgar Irving Huntington, 115 East 90th St., N. Y.

Mr. B. Heineman, 229 West 97th St., N. Y.

Mrs. L. Heineman, 229 West 97th St., N. Y.

Letters were read from: Dr. Zerny and Mr. Richard Tompkins de Garnet.

Mr. Wm. T. Davis was elected delegate of the Society to the N. Y. Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Klots spoke of his "Collecting Experiences in Wyoming" with illustrations by lantern slides, principally from his own photographs.

The locality visited was Jackson's Hole; the illustrations showed the important mammals, elk, moose, bears, porcupine; some of the birds, chickadee, grouse, duck; and trees, particularly lodge pole pine and aspen. The collecting places in the canons and about the numerous lakes were illustrated as well as the snow-clad mountains and brush flats; and a box of representative Lepidoptera was shown. Unfortunately the bulk of Mr. Klots' collections was destroyed by the burning of his cabin following a stroke of lightning. In response to questions by members Mr. Klots spoke of the mosquitoes being troublesome in July, and of the great work accomplished by the Community Centre and Hospital directed by Dr. Hough.

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 1925

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held at 8 P. M. on February 3, 1925, in the American Museum of Natural History, Vice-President Henry Bird in the chair, with thirty-eight members and twenty-five visitors present.

The chairman announced with regret the absence of Dr. Frank E. Lutz, president, on account of illness, and his own gratification upon election as vice-president.

The Program Committee announced for the meeting of February 17 a paper by Mr. E. Graywood Smyth.

Mr. H. M. Tietz, 10326 118th St., Richmond Hill, L. I., was elected an active member of the Society.

Mr. Weiss read a paper on "The Illustrator of Jaeger's Book on North American Insects" which will be published in full. It dealt in careful detail, accumulated by three months' research, with Dr. Washington Hoppin, his work and family history, with a view to doing justice to a half-forgotten worthy.

In the discussion that followed the meritorious work of other illustrators was recalled, notably Peale and Joutel.

Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in an informal talk congratulated the Society on its Journal and the work done by its non-professional members in studying the taxonomy and ecology of insects. He pointed out the study of taxonomy as the first requisite in entomology and the great advance made therein by non-professional students. He commended especially the method of meeting informally around the table and holding discussion seated, contrasting it with the unnecessary formality observed in some European societies. He propounded the theory that the research temperament is essentially an artistic one and pointed to Mr. Davis as an example. Among other matters he spoke of the recent discovery of a Staphylinid beetle on a gravestone, paralleled by wasp cells on a European monument, of mosquitoes that do not bite, of the apparent practice in Europe of storing insects either in the basement or the attic, and congratulated the audience that the popular idea of the triviality of Entomology had in this country somewhat disappeared. Later in the evening he gave as an example the increase in Congressional appropriations from \$5,000 to \$2,500,000 based upon the emergency work necessitated by the Japanese beetle, the European Cornborer, the Gypsy Moth, also the Boll Weevil.

Many members spoke of the important part Dr. Howard had played in bringing this condition about.

Mr. Engelhardt described recent meetings in Washington, and the earnestness manifested by the large attendance; he thought the development was largely due to the present chief of the Bureau.

Dr. Leale spoke at some length on this subject and proposed a resolution

of thanks to Dr. Howard for the work he had accomplished, which was adopted by a rising vote.

Mr. Ottolengui made a plea for a greater interest in the study of the Lepidoptera, pointing out the necessity for continued close study of their taxonomy.

Mr. Nicolay spoke briefly of his recent collections in the Southern Mts.

Mr. Doll was also called upon to speak.

Mr. Smyth spoke of another phase of Dr. Howard's activities in the fatherly encouragement of the younger men in the Bureau and gave some instances from his own experiences.

Dr. Howard responding in lighter vein told of some cases in which the young men had involved him in embarrassing affairs, as when Fred Knab mistook No. 2022 Hillyer Place for No. 2026. He told also of Mr. Schwarz' eightieth birthday and the embarrassment the young women had caused him by their enthusiastic greetings.

The meeting closed with the presentation of a short note by Mr. Davis on the capture by *Anax junius* of so large a creature as *Plantana flavescens*, which is printed elsewhere; and by Dr. Priscilla Hussey's account of the 450 eggs obligingly laid by some Phasmids imported from Europe.

THE WASP, *SEMBIDULA QUADRIFASCIATA*

On August 26, 1925, Mr. John M. Farley, Jr., and the writer were near the Town Bank in Cape May Co., N. J., where we had gone to get further acquainted with the cicada, *Tibicen latifasciata*, that is to be found in the tangle of cedars, hollies, oaks, etc., a little back from the shore.

There was a colony of *Emphor bombiformis* bees by the side of the road, and soon we noticed what we took to be a hovering Tabanid fly. This we captured and were surprised to discover that we had not a fly, but the handsome yellow-marked wasp, *Bembidula quadrifasciata* Say. The length of time that this insect hovered was what interested us. It is a female and its nest was probably in the vicinity.

Dr. Joseph Bequaert has examined my specimens of this species, and Prof. John B. Parker determined a number of them in the writer's collection. In his Revision of the Bembicine Wasps of America North of Mexico, 1917, Prof. Parker states that he had found two nests of this species, and that the wasp poises in